Corridor Trash Collection Service in Group R-2

Applies to

- All State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) staff.
- Local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

Purpose

To clarify that 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) Section 1031.3 does not allow corridor trash collection services in corridors of Group R-2 apartment and condominium buildings.

Background

Trash collection companies have proposed or are already conducting trash collection from dwelling units where the trash is left in the corridor outside the dwelling unit for scheduled pickup. The proposal states occupant trash is intended to be contained in one or more non-combustible or limited combustible containers with tight-fitting lids. These containers could be stored in the corridor for up to 18 hours.

There was a proposal moving its way through ICC code development process for the 2021 International Fire Code to add language for this service. F182-18 was disapproved during the 2018 Group A Final Action voting.

2020 MSFC Section 1031.3

1031.3 Obstructions. A means of egress shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of snow and ice. Means of egress shall remain free of any material or matter where its presence would obstruct or render the means of egress hazardous. No combustible storage is allowed in corridors or exit stairs.

Storage

M-W.com dictionary referenced in MSFC Chapter 2 Section 201.4 defines the transitive verb “store” as “to place or leave in a location for preservation or later use or disposal.” This service requires storing the trash in the corridor for a period of time and is not allowed per MSFC Section 1031.3.

In most apartment buildings the egress corridor is the principle means of exiting the building. It is imperative that the fuel load in corridors be kept to a minimum so that fire growth is contained and this critical egress path remain tenable for the occupants and emergency responders.

Hazardous

Modern garbage and recycling contain a significant amount of plastic materials. These burn at high rates of heat release with significant generation of toxic fire gases including, but not limited to, Carbon Monoxide (CO), Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN), Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S), Hydrogen Chloride (HCl), Nitrous Oxide (NO_2), Hydrogen Bromide (HBr), Hydrogen Fluoride (HF), Acrolein, and Formaldehyde.

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